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Agenda item 160 (b)
Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2016/17	$488,691,600
Expenditure for 2016/17	$480,693,700
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	$7,997,900
Appropriation for 2017/18	$483,000,000
Projected expenditure for 2017/18[a]	$481,951,900
Projected underexpenditure for 2017/18	$1,048,100
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	$482,839,600
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	($1,932,900)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	$480,906,700

[a] Estimates as at 31 January 2018

I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 4 April 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Advisory

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Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, can be found in its related report (A/72/789). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to UNIFIL are discussed in paragraph 4 below.

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

2. By its resolution 70/280, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $488,691,600 gross ($476,442,400 net) for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Expenditures for the period totalled $480,693,700 gross ($468,156,800 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 98.4 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of $7,997,900, in gross terms, represents 1.6 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of: (a) lower-than-budgeted expenditures under military and police personnel ($8,352,800, or 2.6 per cent) and civilian personnel ($799,400, or 0.9 per cent); and (b) higher-than-budgeted expenditures under operational costs ($1,154,300, or 1.7 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/630).

3. It is indicated in the budget performance report that during the 2016/17 period, a total amount of $1,156,000 was redeployed from group I, military and police personnel, to group III, operational costs (ibid., para. 29). The redeployment of funds was attributable to the replacement of the electronic countermeasures jamming equipment to ensure the safety and security of military contingents, and the replacement of an airfield firefighting truck that had sustained extensive damage. The redeployment from group I was possible because of reduced requirements under military and police personnel resulting from the reduced requirements for travel on rotation attributable to a new charter contract, and the implementation of reversed-rotation arrangements. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/776) in section IV below.

4. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNIFIL, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to the Force on the following matters: (a) 36 per cent of the official travel undertaken did not comply with the 16-day advanced booking policy (ibid., table II.16); and (b) following up on a previous recommendation that UNIFIL ensure the timely approval and release of funds for quick-impact projects (see A/71/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 390), the Board indicated that UNIFIL had confirmed that eight Project Review Committee meetings had been held before 31 March 2017, resulting in the obligation of more than 80 per cent of the total quick-impact project budget for the period. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be implemented expeditiously.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

5. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2018, expenditures amounted to $388,280,200. At the end of the current financial period, the estimated total expenditures would amount to $481,951,900, resulting in projected underexpenditure of $1,048,100, or 0.2 per cent.

6. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the incumbency of UNIFIL military and civilian personnel as at 31 March 2018, as follows:

Category of personnel	*Posts authorized/ approved 2017/18[a]*	*Posts encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military and police personnel			
Military contingent personnel	15 000	10 362	30.9
Civilian personnel			
Posts			
International staff	254	240	5.5
National Professional Officers	51	38	25.5
National General Service staff	585	548	6.3
General temporary assistance			
International staff	2	2	0.0
	–	–	–

[a] Represents the highest authorized strength of military and police personnel and the number of approved posts for civilian personnel.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2018, a total of $8,941,950,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNIFIL since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $8,826,134,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $115,816,000. As at 5 March 2018, the cash available to the Force amounted to $279,956,000, which was sufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of $51,291,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries).

8. The Advisory Committee was also informed that all claims for the reimbursement of troop costs up to October 2017 had been settled. As at 31 December 2017, contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to September 2017, leaving a balance of $31,255,800. With regard to death and disability compensation, as at 31 January 2018, an amount of $22,882,000 had been paid to settle 536 claims since the inception of the Force; 4 claims were pending. **The Committee trusts that the outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

9. The mandate of UNIFIL was established by the Security Council in its resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978). The most recent extension of the mandate, until 31 August 2018, was approved by the Council in its resolution 2373 (2017) of 30 August 2017.

10. Pursuant to resolution 2373 (2017), a strategic review of UNIFIL was conducted in 2017. The main proposed changes resulting from that review are related to: (a) the reconfiguration of the Maritime Task Force, which would entail a reduction from seven vessels to six, a reduction from 1,200 maritime personnel to 900 and a reduction of the number of flight hours for the two maritime helicopters from 657 to 300; and (b) the reassignment of a post of Civilian Chief of Staff (D-1) in the Office of the Head of Mission and Force Commander, within existing resources. In addition, a restructuring of the Mission Support Division is proposed around a three-pillar structure (operations and resource management, service delivery management and supply chain management), in line with the standardized approach envisaged across field missions (see A/72/776, para. 11). The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of the mission for the 2018/19 period are summarized in paragraphs 6 to 13 of the report of the Secretary-General.

B. Resource requirements

11. The proposed budget for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to $482,839,600, representing a decrease of $160,400, or 0.03 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. This reflects the combined effect of proposed decreases under military and police personnel and operational costs ($2,184,900, or 0.6 per cent, and $1,002,900, or 2.4 per cent, respectively), offset in part by proposed increases under civilian personnel ($3,027,400, or 3.3 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and IV, respectively, of the proposed budget (A/72/776).

1. Military and police personnel

Category	*Authorized 2017/18*[a]	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Military contingent personnel	15 000	15 000	–

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

12. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2018/19 amount to $348,047,900, reflecting a decrease of $2,184,900, or 0.6 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The decrease is due mostly to: (a) reductions in the number of Maritime Task Force personnel and in the number of vessels and helicopter flight hours; and (b) the application of a vacancy factor of 30 per cent, compared with the factor of 29.9 per cent applied in 2017/18. The decrease would be offset in part by: (a) a lower estimated amount of deductions to be applied for absent or non-functional contingent-owned major equipment; and (b) higher contingent-owned major equipment and self-sustainment reimbursement costs as a result of the change in the reimbursement rate category for major equipment due to electronic countermeasures and the increase in the hostile action/forced abandonment factor from 3.1 per cent to 3.7 per cent as at 1 July 2017 (ibid., para. 108).

13. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the requirements for contingent marine operations, including details on the two Maritime Task Force helicopters that operate jointly with their mother ships, which is contained in annex I to the present report.

14. **The Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved 2017/18*	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Posts			
International staff	254	254	–
National Professional Officers	51	48	(3)
National General Service staff	585	585	–
Temporary positions[a]			
International staff	2	2	–
Total	**892**	**889**	**(3)**

[a] Funded under general temporary assistance.

15. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to $94,667,700, reflecting an increase of $3,027,400, or 3.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that the increase is attributable mainly to increased requirements under national staff owing to: (a) the application of a revised salary scale for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff; and (b) the application of vacancy rates of 17 per cent and 6.4 per cent, respectively, in the computation of salary costs for National Professional Officers and national General Service staff. The increased requirements would be offset in part by the proposed abolishment of two National Professional Officer posts and the conversion of one National Professional Officer post (ibid., para. 109).

Vacancy rates

16. The proposal includes vacancy rates, set out in section II.D of the budget document (A/72/776), as follows: 3 per cent for international staff, 17 per cent for National Professional Officers and 6.4 per cent for national General Service staff. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the incumbency levels for the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 (which represents the first nine months of the 2017/18 period), showing that the average vacancy rates for international staff and National Professional Officers were 5.1 per cent and 29.4 per cent, respectively, while the respective vacancy rates were 5.5 per cent and 25.5 per cent as at 31 March 2018 (see para. 6 above). **The Committee recommends that for the 2018/19 period, vacancy rates of 5.1 per cent and 25.5 per cent be applied to international staff and National Professional Officers, respectively. Any operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.**

17. Concerning long-vacant posts, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as at 31 March 2018, 11 posts had been vacant for more than two years, comprising 6 National Professional Officer posts and 5 national General Service posts. According to the information provided, eight posts were at various stages of the recruitment process; one post of Associate Civil Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) was proposed for abolishment; one post of Information Analyst (National Professional Officer) was proposed for conversion to a P-3 post; and one post of Assistant Welfare Officer (National Professional Officer) was proposed for reassignment from the Office of the Deputy Force Commander to the Office of the Deputy Chief of the Service Delivery Unit as a post of Assistant Administrative Officer. **The Committee expects that all vacant posts will be filled expeditiously.**

Recommendations on posts and positions

18. A total of 889 civilian posts and positions are proposed for 2018/19, comprising 254 international posts, 633 national posts (48 National Professional Officer and 585 national General Service) and 2 international positions funded under general temporary assistance. The staffing proposal reflects a net reduction of three National Professional Officer posts compared with the approved posts and positions for 2017/18. (A summary of the proposed staffing changes for 2018/19 is presented in annex II to the present report.)

19. The proposed changes are as follows:

(a) The abolishment of three posts currently located in the Civil Affairs Section: one post of Associate HIV/AIDS Officer (P-2) would be abolished, as recommended under the strategic review, and one post of Civil Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) and one post of Associate Civil Affairs Officer (National Professional Officer) would also be abolished, as it was determined that the reconfigured Civil Affairs Section would be sufficient to optimally deliver the mandated tasks (ibid., paras. 45–46);

(b) The reclassification of a post of Staff Development Officer (P-3) as a post of Training Officer (P-4), whose incumbent would serve as Head of the Integrated Mission Training Centre; this proposal is in line with the level of management required to manage an expanded training capability under the harmonized support structure (ibid., para. 65);

(c) The conversion of one post of Information Analyst (National Professional Officer) in the Joint Mission Analysis Centre to a P-3 post, owing to the increased workload of the Centre in recent years. In addition, the Secretary-General indicates that the post would involve the handling of potentially sensitive information, requiring the involvement of international staff (ibid., para. 35);

(d) The reassignment of 14 posts (3 D-1, 3 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 Field Service, 1 National Professional Officer and 5 national General Service), which would result mostly from the proposed establishment of the Office of the Civilian Chief of Staff and the restructuring of the mission support component. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that all of the reassigned posts, once reclassified through the established human resources process, would be advertised. If any of the posts were encumbered, the incumbents would be invited and encouraged to apply and compete for the reassigned posts, in accordance with the administrative instruction on the system for the classification of posts (ST/AI/1998/9 and ST/AI/1998/9/Corr.1) (a summary of the proposed reassignments is presented in annex III to the present report);

(e) The redeployment of 502 posts, which would also result from the proposed establishment of the Office of the Civilian Chief of Staff and the restructuring of the mission support component.

20. With regard to the proposed conversion to increase the capability of the Joint Mission Analysis Centre, the Advisory Committee does not find the justification provided to be convincing, since the Centre already has a complement of 10 posts and positions, including 5 international Professional posts and 2 international temporary positions. **Consequently, the Committee recommends against the proposed conversion of a post of Information Analyst from the National Professional Officer category to the international category at the P-3 level.**

21. The proposed reassignment of the post of Chief Civil Affairs Officer (D-1) as a post of Civilian Chief of Staff (D-1) reflects a recommendation of the strategic review aimed at strengthening the integration and coordination of the Force. The Civilian

Chief of Staff would be responsible for ensuring the integrated and coherent functioning of the mission across all areas, components and locations. According to the Secretary-General, such a reassignment would also strengthen the mission's overall situational awareness, as the incumbent would coordinate the information-gathering and analysis activities of the Joint Operations Centre, the Joint Mission Analysis Centre, the Security Section and the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission and Director of Political and Civil Affairs. The Advisory Committee notes that the Force's current civilian staffing structure already provides for three senior officials at the D-2 level (1 Deputy Force Commander, 1 Deputy Head of Mission and 1 Director of Mission Support), who, in its view, could deputize and assist the Head of Mission/Force Commander in his coordinating and integrating functions. The Committee also notes that UNIFIL is staffed primarily with military personnel, including a Deputy Force Commander. In addition, as the proposed change is the reassignment of a post, including a change in functions, the Committee would have expected a detailed justification for this change. **Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed reassignment of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer (D-1) as Civilian Chief of Staff (D-1).**

22. In terms of the staff movements between the mission's headquarters in Naqoura and the Beirut Office, the following are proposed: (a) the reassignment of one United Nations Police Adviser (P-4) from the Office of the Director of Political and Civil Affairs, Beirut Office, to the Office of the Head of Mission/Force Commander in Naqoura, as a Political Affairs Officer (P-4); and (b) the redeployment of a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Office of the Deputy Head of Mission and Director of Political and Civil Affairs to the Beirut Office.

23. The Advisory Committee was informed that the post of United Nations Police Adviser (P-4) had originally been created to support a police-led security arrangement to be established following the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from northern Ghajar. Despite continued engagement, the security arrangement — which envisaged a police component — had not come to fruition. Since then, the post had served to engage in liaison with and provide advice on matters related to the Lebanese border security agencies and their functions. The reassignment of the post was intended to cover the requirement for a Head of the Reporting Cell in the Joint Operations Centre at UNIFIL headquarters, which had been established to fulfil the additional reporting requirement called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2373 (2017).

24. The proposed redeployment of a position of Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from the Office of the Head of Mission and Director of Political and Civil Affairs, located in Naqoura, to the Beirut Office is intended to cover a comparable/related function at the same level but in a different location. The position is expected to support the regular interactions necessary with representatives of the host Government with regard to the extension of State authority to southern Lebanon, provide dedicated support to the Lebanese Armed Forces for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and obtain support from the international community for the identified priority needs of the Lebanese Armed Forces for the implementation of the resolution.

25. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the proposed movements (one reassignment and one redeployment) between the Beirut Office and the Force's headquarters in Naqoura of a post and a position at the P-4 level in the area of political affairs are not fully justified. **Therefore, the Committee recommends against the proposed reassignment of the United Nations Police Adviser (P-4) as a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Beirut to Naqoura and the redeployment of a Political Affairs Officer (P-4) from Naqoura to Beirut.**

26. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraphs 16, 20, 21 and 25 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff. Any operational costs should be adjusted accordingly.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	Apportioned 2017/18	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Operational costs	68,710,200[a]	40,124,000	(28,586,200)

[a] The original apportionment approved for operational costs, of $68,710,200, included an amount of $27,583,300 for contingent marine operations in 2017/18. This requirement has been moved from operational costs to military and police personnel in 2018/19. To constitute a comparable base with the 2018/19 cost estimates, an amount of $27,583,300 has to be deducted from the approved requirement for operational costs in 2017/18; the variance between 2017/18 and 2018/19 is then limited to a reduction of $1,002,900.

27. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to $40,124,000, reflecting a decrease of $1,002,900, or 2.4 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General proposes decreases under air operations ($1,131,600, or 14.4 per cent), marine operations ($1,119,500, or 93.6 per cent), communications and information technology ($671,300, or 9.2 per cent), other supplies, services and equipment ($240,200, or 6.5 per cent) and official travel ($104,000, or 10.7 per cent). The decreased requirements would be offset in part by an increase under facilities and infrastructure ($2,330,400, or 16.8 per cent).

Facilities and infrastructure

28. The Secretary-General indicates that the increased requirements under facilities and infrastructure are attributable primarily to: (a) provisions for the acquisition of engineering supplies required for regular building maintenance; (b) the acquisition of accommodation consumables to improve and maintain the living conditions of military personnel and the replacement of deteriorated air ventilation and cooling units; (c) the acquisition of fire safety equipment and of surveillance and detection equipment for security gate checkpoints; (d) provisions for the construction of solid ablution facilities to replace deteriorating prefabricated units and renovation and alteration services for renovations across UNIFIL premises, camps and positions; (e) the higher estimated cost for diesel fuel of $0.496 per litre, compared with the $0.430 per litre applied in 2017/18; and (f) the acquisition of recycle bins and garbage collection containers. The increased requirements would be offset in part by: (a) fewer replacements of generator sets, electrical tools and powered equipment; and (b) lower requirements for spare parts and supplies (see A/72/776, para. 111).

29. The Advisory Committee requested, but was not provided with, adequate justification for the variances between the expenditures incurred in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and the proposed requirements for 2018/19 regarding the following budget lines: acquisition of prefabricated facilities, accommodation and refrigeration equipment; acquisition of safety and security equipment and supplies; stationery and office supplies; construction materials and field defence supplies; and sanitation and cleaning materials. **The Committee recommends a reduction of $115,600, or 5 per cent, to the total requirements of $2,312,800 proposed under these budget lines.**

Other supplies, services and equipment

30. Concerning the requirements under other supplies, services and equipment, the Advisory Committee requested, but was not provided with, adequate justification for

the variances between the expenditures incurred in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and the proposed requirements for 2018/19 regarding the following budget lines: training fees, supplies and services; and other freight and related costs. **The Committee recommends a reduction of $64,600, or 5 per cent, to the total requirements of $1,292,000 proposed under these budget lines.**

Official travel

31. An amount of $869,000 is proposed for official travel in 2018/19, representing a decrease of $104,000, or 10.7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. **On the basis of the review of the proposed trips over the period, the Advisory Committee notes some discrepancies in the costs basis used for comparable trips. Therefore, the Committee recommends a reduction of $43,500, or 5 per cent, to the proposed requirements for official travel.**

32. **Subject to its observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 29, 30 and 31 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

Other matters

Mine detection and mine-clearing services

33. An amount of $1,295,800 is proposed to cover the services of the Mine Action Service in Lebanon. It would provide for the costs of engaging three international and six national contractual personnel, under an agreement with the United Nations Office for Project Services, to support and enable the mine action activities of UNIFIL within its area of operations (ibid., para. 103). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in 2018/19, the Force would continue to maintain six mine-clearing teams and two explosive ordnance disposal teams from two contingents. The demining activities would include the breaching of minefields within the framework of the tripartite Blue Line marking project to ensure the freedom of movement of United Nations contingent personnel and refurbishing the Blue Line markers. In addition, the Service would conduct training for troop-contributing-country demining teams and Observer Group Lebanon personnel, and would support mine risk education initiatives for local populations.

34. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the demining activities in 2018/19 were expected to ensure the clearance of landmines/unexploded ordnance to allow for the marking of the Blue Line at UNIFIL positions throughout the area of operations, as well as raise awareness. **The Committee notes the continued efforts of UNIFIL and other United Nations entities with respect to their mine detection and mine clearance activities in southern Lebanon.**

Fuel consumption

35. The Secretary-General indicates that in 2018/19, the Force will consume 21.2 million litres of fuel, including 16.2 million litres to supply 152 United Nations-owned generators. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the national grid in Lebanon did not support the locations where UNIFIL camps and positions were located. Therefore, the mission was fully reliant on its generators for the provision of an uninterrupted power supply to the Force. The 2018/19 period represented the second year of the Force's three-year phased programme to replace generators with new computer-controlled electromagnetic fuel injection technology. Projected savings of $80,046 were estimated over the reporting period. In addition, the Force was currently reviewing all of the contingent-owned generators to identify the potential for further fuel efficiencies. **The Committee encourages the mission to pursue its effort to achieve greater energy efficiency.**

V. Conclusion

36. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 are indicated in section V of the performance report (A/72/630). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $7,997,700 for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to $4,531,000 for the period ended 30 June 2017, be credited to Member States.**

37. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly regarding the financing of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget (A/72/776). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 20, 21, 25, 29, 30 and 31 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by $1,932,900, from $482,839,600 to $480,906,700. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $480,906,700 for the maintenance of the Force for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/630)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/776)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II) chap. II)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/756)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/770)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of UNIFIL (A/71/836/Add.5 and A/71/836/Add.5/Corr.1)
- General Assembly resolution 71/298
- Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 2373 (2017)

Annex I

Breakdown of the requirements for the contingent maritime operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Table 1

Contingent marine operations, proposed budget for the 2018/19 period

(United States dollars)

Type of ship	*No. of ships*	*Cost of ships*	*No. of flight hours*	*Cost per flight hour*	*Flight hour costs*	*Total costs*
Corvette with Helo[a]	2	9 152 000	300	1 900	570 000	9 722 000
Corvette	4	15 769 840	–	–	–	15 769 840
Total	**6**	**24 921 840**	**300**		**570 000**	**25 491 840**

[a] Includes two Maritime Task Force helicopters that operate with their mother ships.

Table 2

Contingent marine operations, approved budget for the 2017/18 period

(United States dollars)

Type of ship	*No. of ships*	*Cost of ships*	*No. of flight hours*	*Cost per flight hour*	*Flight hour costs*	*Total costs*
Corvette with Helo[a]	2	9 152 000	657	1 900	1 248 300	10 400 300
Corvettes	3	12 177 102	–	–	–	12 177 102
Fast patrol boat	1	2 669 731	–	–	–	2 669 731
Offshore patrol vessel	1	2 336 210	–	–	–	2 336 210
Total	**7**	**26 335 043**	**657**		**1 248 300**	**27 583 343**

[a] Includes two Maritime Task Force helicopters that operate with their mother ships.

Annex II

Summary of proposed changes in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, 2018/19 period

Total net change: -3	
International staff	–
National Professional Officers	-3
National General Service staff	–
Total	**-3**

	Posts	*Positions*	*Total*
Establishment	–	–	–
Abolishment	-3	–	-3
Redeployment[a]	502 –	– –	502
Reassignment	-14 –	– –	14
Reclassification	1 –	– –	1
Conversion	1 –	– –	1
Total	**-3**	–	**-3**

[a] Represents the movement of 424 posts, in connection with the transfer of 16 units/sections/offices, and the redeployment of 78 individual posts.

Annex III

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon posts proposed for reassignment, 2018/19 period

No.	*Level*	*Current title/function*	*Proposed title/function*	*Status*
1.	D-1	Chief Civil Affairs Officer	Civilian Chief of Staff	Encumbered
2.	D-1	Chief, Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies	Chief, Operations and Resource Management	Encumbered
3.	D-1	Deputy Director of Mission Support	Chief, Service Delivery Management	Temporarily encumbered through temporary job opening
4.	P-5	Chief Procurement Officer	Chief, Field Technology Section	Temporarily encumbered through temporary job opening
5.	P-5	Deputy Chief, Integrated Support Services	Deputy Chief, Service Delivery	Encumbered
6.	P-5	Chief, Movements Section	Chief, Life Support Section	Encumbered
7.	P-4	United Nations Police Adviser	Political Affairs Officer	Encumbered (departure on 27 March 2018)
8.	Field Service	Travel Officer	Administrative Officer	Vacant
9	National Professional Officer	Assistant Welfare Officer	Assistant Administrative Officer	Vacant
10.	National General Service	Contracts Management Assistant	Facilities Management Assistant	Encumbered
11.	National General Service	Team Assistant	Facilities Management Assistant	Encumbered
12.	National General Service	Language Assistant	Facilities Management Assistant	Encumbered
13.	National General Service	Driver	Facilities Management Assistant	Encumbered
14.	National General Service	Inventory and Supply Assistant	Facilities Management Assistant	Encumbered

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Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 for the United Nations Support Office in Somalia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2016/17	$574,304,900
Expenditure for 2016/17	$570,234,800
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	$4,070,100
Appropriation for 2017/18	$582,000,000
Projected expenditure for 2017/18[a]	$582,000,000
Projected underexpenditure for 2017/18	$0
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	$568,744,000
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	($2,591,700)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	$566,152,300

[a] Estimates as at 31 January 2018

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I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 17 April 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, can be found in its related report (A/72/789). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to UNSOS are discussed in paragraph 4 below.

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

2. By its resolution 70/285, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $574,304,900 gross ($569,408,200 net) for the maintenance of UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Expenditures for the period totalled $570,234,800 gross ($564,649,400 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 99.3 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of $4,070,100, in gross terms, represents 0.7 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of: (a) lower-than-budgeted expenditures under operational costs ($20,321,200, or 5.6 per cent); and (b) higher-than-budgeted expenditures under military and police personnel ($9,655,800, or 6.4 per cent) and civilian personnel ($6,595,300, or 11.3 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/650).

3. The budget performance report indicates that during the 2016/17 period, a total amount of $16.3 million was redeployed from group III, operational costs to: (a) group I, military and police personnel ($9.7 million); and (b) group II, civilian personnel ($6.6 million) (see A/72/650, para. 43). The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/763) in section IV below.

4. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNSOS, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to UNSOS on the following matters: (a) continued redeployment of resources to consultants (ibid., para. 69; see also paras. 33–34 below); (b) procurement (ibid., paras. 170–181; see also paras. 5–6 below); (c) non-compliant travel requests (ibid., para. 326 and table II.16); (d) fuel consumption and theft (ibid., paras. 362–369; see paras. 40–41 below); (e) absence of a comprehensive and tested information and communications technology disaster recovery plan (ibid., paras. 415–419); (f) non-establishment of procedures for monitoring environmental activities and operations (ibid., paras. 437 and 440–441; see paras. 46–47 below); and (g) procurement of medical supplies (ibid., para. 452–456; see para. 44 below). **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNSOS will implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors expeditiously.**

Procurement audit requested by the Advisory Committee

5. The Advisory Committee requested the Board of Auditors, during its audit for the financial period ended 30 June 2017, to focus on the procurement contracts of UNSOS for the financial periods 2015/16 and 2016/17, including the amended rations contract, the medical contract and the Office's outsourcing through the use of consultants, individual contractors and personnel contracted through third parties (see A/71/836/Add.6, para. 27). Concerning the amended rations contract and the outsourcing activities, the Committee requested and received additional information, which is discussed in paragraphs 18 to 20 and 34 to 37 below.

6. The report of the Board of Auditors has identified a few issues, such as: (a) 29 purchase orders (2 per cent of all orders placed) amounting to $12.9 million were approved by the procurement officers without the prior consent of the local committee on contracts or the Headquarters Committee on Contracts; (b) 10 cases (11 per cent) of inadequate compliance with timelines and inconsistent application of evaluation criteria (best value for money); and (c) procurement of medical supplies and drugs that were not on the lists required by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 170–181). It is indicated by the Board that UNSOS has accepted the recommendations of the Board. **The Advisory Committee shares the view of the Board of Auditors that UNSOS needs to strengthen internal controls and enforce accountability over procurement and contract management.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

7. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 January 2018, expenditures amounted to $424,089,100. At the end of the current financial period, the estimated total expenditures would equal the appropriation of $582,000,000, resulting in a projected full utilization of the approved budget.

8. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the incumbency of UNSOS and AMISOM uniformed and civilian personnel as at 31 January 2018, as follows:

Category of personnel	*Posts authorized/approved 2017/18[a]*	*Posts encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military and police personnel			
United Nations military contingent personnel	70	43	38.6
AMISOM military contingent personnel	21 586	20 543	4.8
AMISOM police personnel	120	140	(16.7)
AMISOM formed police unit personnel	420	300	28.6
Civilian personnel			
Posts			
International staff	344	304	11.6
National Professional Officers	38	29	23.7
National General Service staff	151	130	13.9
United Nations Volunteers	20	20	–
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–

[a] Represents the highest authorized strength for military and police personnel and the number of approved posts for civilian personnel.

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2018, a total of $3,952,061,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNSOS since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $3,711,687,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $240,374,000. As at 26 February 2018, the cash available to UNSOS amounted to $91,755,000, which is insufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of $150,553,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). **The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions (see resolution 70/247).**

10. The Advisory Committee was also informed that all claims for the reimbursement of troop costs had been settled up to 31 October 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $117,000 as at 31 December 2017. Contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to 30 September 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $71,093,000 as at 31 December 2017.

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

11. The mandate of UNSOS was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1863 (2009). The most recent extension of the mandate, until 31 May 2018, was approved by the Council in its resolution 2372 (2017) dated 30 August 2017. In that resolution, the Council, inter alia: (a) welcomed the recommendation of the joint African Union-United Nations review of AMISOM for a gradual and phased reduction and reorganization of the Mission's uniformed personnel in order to provide a greater support role to the Somali security forces as they progressively took the lead for security in Somalia; (b) decided to reduce the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel to a maximum level of 21,626 by 31 December 2017, to include a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM police personnel, including five formed police units, with a further reduction of uniformed personnel to 20,626 by 30 October 2018, unless the Council decided to accelerate the pace of the reduction.

12. In its resolution 2372 (2017), the Security Council also requested the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive assessment of AMISOM by 15 April 2018, working closely with the African Union and the Federal Government of Somalia, and to make recommendations on the progressive transition from AMISOM to Somali security responsibility. With respect to a strategic review of UNSOS, upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the review for UNSOS was scheduled to take place following the joint African Union-United Nations assessment of AMISOM in the middle of 2018, with any outcomes to inform the development of the 2019/20 budget.

13. The main priorities and planning assumptions of UNSOS for the 2018/19 period are summarized in paragraphs 6 to 22 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for UNSOS for 2018/19 (A/72/763).

B. Resource requirements

14. The proposed budget for UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to $568,744,000, representing a decrease of $13,256,000, or 2.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. This reflects the combined effect of proposed decreases under military and police personnel ($5,573,300, or 3.3 per

cent) and operational costs ($24,521,500, or 7 per cent), offset in part by proposed increases under civilian personnel ($16,838,800, or 28 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (ibid.).

1. Military and police personnel

Category	*Authorized 2017/18*[a]	*Proposed 2018/19*[b]	*Variance*
United Nations military contingent personnel	70	70	–
AMISOM military contingent personnel	21 586	20 586	(1 000)
AMISOM police personnel	120	200	80
AMISOM formed police unit personnel	420	840	420

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

[b] The Security Council, in its resolution 2372 (2017) of 30 August 2017, reduced the level of uniformed AMISOM personnel to a maximum level of 21,626 by 31 December 2017, to include a minimum of 1,040 AMISOM police personnel, including five formed police units, with a further reduction of uniformed personnel to 20,626 by 30 October 2018 (see A/72/763, Summary, footnote (b)).

15. The Secretary-General indicates that the budget for the 2018/19 period provides for 21,626 uniformed personnel from 1 July to 31 October 2018 and for 20,626 personnel from 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2019 (see also para. 11 above). The Secretary-General also indicates that the reduction will be spread across the contingents and that there will be no reduction in contingent-owned equipment in the 2018/19 period (A/72/763, para. 8).

16. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2018/19 amount to $165,770,000, reflecting a decrease of $5,573,300, or 3.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The decrease reflects reductions under military contingents ($9.4 million, or 5.6 per cent), offset in part by increases under: (a) AMISOM formed police unit personnel, owing mainly to the phased deployment of an additional three formed police units (420 personnel) ($3.7 million, or 93.2 per cent); and (b) AMISOM police personnel, attributable mainly to the phased deployment of an additional 80 personnel ($0.1 million, or 72.8 per cent) (ibid., paras. 91–93).

17. Concerning the reduced requirements under military contingents for 2018/19, it is explained in the report of the Secretary-General that these are attributable mainly to a reduction in rations ($18.1 million) owing to: (a) the repatriation of 1,000 AMISOM military personnel by December 2017 and the repatriation of an additional 1,000 personnel by October 2018; (b) the delivery of rations by road and sea to AMISOM locations; and (c) the removal of air delivery from the rations contractor (ibid., para. 91). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that for the transportation of rations, the proposed reduction of $14.805 million under military contingents for 2018/19 is offset in part by an increase of $11.962 million in freight charges under other supplies and services for using a third-party contractor to transport rations, thus leading to a net reduction of $2.843 million in the transportation of rations.

Overexpenditures under the amended rations contract

18. The Advisory Committee has commented on significant increases under the amended rations contract for the financial periods 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 and the lack of clarity concerning the responsibilities of the rations contractor and UNSOS

in the delivery of rations, in particular air delivery (see A/71/836/Add.6, paras. 26–28). As noted in paragraph 5 above, the Committee therefore requested the Board of Auditors to conduct an audit in that regard. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed by the Board that the Board had reviewed the contract with the rations contractor for the provision of food rations, bottled water and other services and equipment. The contract, which initially covered a period of three years (from September 2012 to September 2015) with a sum of $95.8 million (not to exceed), was extended up to March 2018 with an amount of $383.4 million (not to exceed) through eight amendments.

19. Upon repeated requests during its review of the proposed budget for 2018/19, the Advisory Committee received the following two tables from UNSOS with a breakdown of all rations-related approved resources and costs incurred, by component and by each of the three parties (UNSOS, the rations supplier and the third-party contractor), for the 2015/16 to 2017/18 periods, and proposed resources for the 2018/19 period. The Committee notes from the tables that UNSOS incurred overexpenditures of $40.2 million and $24.3 million for the transportation of rations for 2015/16 and 2016/17, respectively, under the amended rations contract (see para. 18 above). The Committee also notes from the tables that expenditures of a total of $19.2 million were incurred under the third-party contractor for three financial periods, while no budgetary provisions were made for that purpose. The Committee recalls that it was informed that prior to the amendment in 2015 (see A/71/836/Add.6, para. 26 (a)–(d)), all deliveries of rations had been carried out using aviation and surface assets of UNSOS (then the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia) as well as a third-party logistics contract and that the amendment to the contract transferred primary responsibility for the delivery of rations (by ground, air and sea) to the contractor because the contractor had the facility, equipment, appropriate means of transport and trained personnel, while, were UNSOS to replicate these services by the rations contractor, UNSOS would require several additional rotary-wing aircraft, crews, aviation staff and other staff and equipment. However, it had been decided in October 2016, as a cost-saving measure, to revert to using a combination of UNSOS aircraft for air deliveries and the contractor's assets for sea and road deliveries. **While recognizing the challenging environment in which UNSOS operates and the operational needs, the Advisory Committee notes with concern the lack of cost and benefit analysis and transparency in the management of the rations contract, leading to a total overexpenditure of $64.5 million under the transportation of rations for 2015/16 and 2016/17. The Committee expects that lessons will be learned and applied in future management of all contracts by UNSOS and other peacekeeping missions.**

Breakdown by component of all rations-related approved resources and costs incurred for the 2015/16 to 2017/18 periods and proposed resources for the 2018/19 period

(United States dollars)

Rations components	*Approved budget* 2015/16	*Actual expenditure* 2015/16	*Approved budget* 2016/17	*Actual expenditure* 2016/17	*Approved budget* 2017/18	*Projected expenditure* 2017/18	*Proposed budget* 2018/19
Food rations (assorted)	44 561 421	26 851 204	43 316 851	53 406 387	44 445 880	42 958 719	42 059 990
Bottled water (potable) (litres)	393 156	–	393 405	7 120	402 036	–	376 051
Composite rations packs (reserve)	3 663 504	1 559 097	3 605 669	65 260	3 537 738	5 822 301	6 135 209
Warehousing	7 922 859	8 944 069	11 485 289	8 643 480	12 721 860	10 612 605	10 621 130
Transportation	8 804 600	48 993 142	19 577 808	43 897 266	24 635 395	15 709 649	21 760 553

Rations components	*Approved budget 2015/16*	*Actual expenditure 2015/16*	*Approved budget 2016/17*	*Actual expenditure 2016/17*	*Approved budget 2017/18*	*Projected expenditure 2017/18*	*Proposed budget 2018/19*
Refrigeration	1 156 809	1 663 203	5 629 185	4 373 445	5 629 186	5 656 168	5 435 693
Mobilization	–	6 391 002	–	–	–	–	–
Total	**66 502 348**	**94 401 717**	**84 008 206**	**110 392 958**	**91 372 095**	**80 759 442**	**86 388 626**

Breakdown of approved resources and related costs of the three parties (UNSOS, the rations supplier and the third-party contractor) for the 2015/16 to 2017/18 periods and proposed resources for the 2018/19 period

(United States dollars)

Areas of responsibility	*Approved budget 2015/16*	*Actual expenditure 2015/16*	*Approved budget 2016/17*	*Actual expenditure 2016/17*	*Approved budget 2017/18*	*Projected expenditure 2017/18*	*Proposed budget 2018/19*
UNSOS							
Transportation[a]	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rations supplier							
Food rations (assorted)	48 618 080	28 410 301	47 315 924	53 478 767	48 385 654	48 781 020	48 571 250
Warehousing	7 922 859	8 944 069	11 485 289	8 643 480	12 721 860	10 612 605	10 621 130
Transportation	8 804 600	48 215 625	19 577 808	31 539 908	24 635 395	9 696 939	9 792 103
Refrigeration	1 156 809	1 663 203	5 629 185	4 373 445	5 629 186	5 656 168	5 435 693
Mobilization	–	6 391 002	–	–	–	–	–
Subtotal	**66 502 348**	**93 624 200**	**84 008 206**	**98 035 600**	**91 372 095**	**74 746 732**	**74 420 176**
Third-party contractor							
Transportation							
Air deliveries	–	705 307	–	12 307 730	–	5 373 818	10 046 400
Road deliveries	–	72 210	–	49 628	–	–	–
Sea deliveries	–	–	–	–	–	638 892	1 922 050
Subtotal	**–**	**777 517**	**–**	**12 357 358**	**–**	**6 012 710**	**11 968 450**
Total	**66 502 347.9**	**94 401 717**	**84 008 206**	**110 392 958**	**91 372 095**	**80 759 442**	**86 388 626**

[a] Where road delivery of rations is not possible, UNSOS tasks its fixed-wing aircraft and utility helicopters from the UNSOS fleet to deliver rations. The cost of flying hours is already factored in the total aviation fleet costs as part of the guaranteed flying hours.

20. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Board of Auditors had observed inadequate maintenance of composite ration packs at UNSOS following the review of the inventory reports for the financial period 2016/17. The Board noted that the available balance of the packs was enough to feed the troops for only 6 days rather than the 14 days required under the guidelines from samples reviewed for September and November 2016 and February 2017, while the packs available at the Mogadishu warehouse constituted only 36 per cent of those required for the troop strength on 25 June 2017. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that UNSOS must follow the relevant guidelines to ensure adequate maintenance of composite ration packs for the troops.**

21. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved 2017/18*	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Posts			
International staff	344	351	7
National Professional Officers	38	38	–
National General Service	151	151	–
Temporary positions[a]	–	–	–
United Nations Volunteers	20	20	–
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–
Total	**559**	**566**	**7**

[a] Funded under general temporary assistance

22. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to $76,959,200, reflecting an increase of $16,838,800, or 28 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that the increase is attributable mainly to higher requirements owing to the application of lower vacancy rates for all categories of staff (see para. 23 below) and the proposed establishment of seven new posts (see paras. 25–27 below).

Vacancy rates

23. The proposal of the Secretary-General includes vacancy rates, set out in section II.D of the budget document (A/72/763), as follows: (a) international staff, 10 per cent proposed for the 2018/19 period, compared with 31 per cent approved for 2017/18; (b) national staff, 20 per cent for National Professional Officers and 10 per cent for national General Service staff proposed for 2018/19, compared with 33 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively, approved for 2017/18; (c) United Nations Volunteers, 2 per cent proposed for 2018/19, compared with 24 per cent approved for 2017/18; and (d) government-provided personnel, 2 per cent proposed for 2018/19, compared with 15 per cent approved for 2017/18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the vacancy rates experienced for the current period were significantly lower than what was projected owing to the increased recruitment efforts by UNSOS and that it was estimated that the vacancy rate would continue to improve for the 2018/19 period based on historical recruitment trends and current recruitment efforts and timelines. The Committee notes from the information provided to it that as at 31 January 2018, the actual average for the current period and actual vacancy rates were 13.4 per cent and 11.6 per cent for international staff, 26.3 per cent and 23.7 per cent for National Professional Officers and 14.6 per cent and 13.9 per cent for national General Service staff, respectively.

24. **While the Advisory Committee notes the efforts made by UNSOS to expedite recruitments, it reiterates that budgeted vacancy rates should be based, as much as possible, on actual vacancy rates (A/71/836/Add.6, para. 30). The Committee recommends that vacancy rates of 11.6 per cent for international staff, 23.7 per cent for National Professional Officers and 13.9 per cent for national General Service staff be applied to the estimates for 2018/19. Any related operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.**

Recommendations on posts

25. A total of 566 civilian posts are proposed for 2018/19, comprising staffing changes, as follows (A/72/763, paras. 22, 40–46, 50, 51, 56–58 and 63):

(a) Establishment of 7 posts: 1 P-5 Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary-General; 1 P-4 Programme Management Officer for the human rights due diligence policy; 5 Field Service posts (1 Security Training Officer and 4 Close Protection Officers) (see paras. 26–27 below);

(b) Reclassification of 3 posts from P-3 to P-4: Aviation Safety Officer, Administrative Officer and Logistics Officer (see para. 28 below);

(c) Reassignment of 1 D-1 post: Deputy Director of Mission Support to Chief of Operations and Resources Management;

(d) Redeployment of 183 posts and realignment of 208 posts, reflecting the proposed reorganization of the support structure of UNSOS in line with the harmonization of mission support structures in field missions (see paras. 29–30 below).

Establishment

26. With respect to the proposed establishment of the post of 1 P-4 Programme Management Officer for the human rights due diligence policy, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as an integrated mission under the overall responsibility of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), while UNSOM discharged the Mission's human rights monitoring and reporting mandate (a total of 25 posts, including monitoring the conduct of AMISOM and the Somali National Army to determine compliance), UNSOS had the obligation to comply with and implement the human rights due diligence policy by strengthening procedures to improve support, putting in place mitigation measures and securing and sharing relevant information with UNSOM and the human rights due diligence policy task force for determining compliance. Therefore, in view of the defined role for UNSOS, this post is again proposed mainly to address the changed circumstances in which the risk of violation of the human rights due diligence policy is higher (see General Assembly resolution 70/285, para. 5). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the P-4 post of Programme Management Officer for the human rights due diligence policy and trusts that UNSOS will keep the post under review to ensure complementarity with the work undertaken by UNSOM.**

27. Concerning the proposed establishment of five Field Service posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that the need for one Security Training Officer was due to the decision made in December 2017 to move the mandatory United Nations security training for staff members travelling to Somalia from Nairobi to Mogadishu. This training, which was previously conducted by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, now falls under the responsibility of UNSOS. The shift of training to Mogadishu will result in savings for UNSOS in the costs of staff travelling to Nairobi. As for the requirements for an additional four Close Protection Officers, the Committee was informed that there were three Principal Officers in UNSOM (1 Under-Secretary-General and 2 Assistant Secretaries-General) and the Assistant Secretary-General for UNSOS (since October 2016) and that the Close Protection Unit of UNSOM and UNSOS currently had a total of 26 posts budgeted by both UNSOM and UNSOS that were pooled to provide protection to the four Principal Officers, as well as to visiting senior officials or dignitaries. The additional four Close Protection Officers would ensure that two Principal Officers could be supported at the same time on separate

missions, while also covering the remaining Principal Officers within the United Nations camp. It was indicated to the Committee that with the established ratio of 12 Close Protection Officers per Principal Officer, the ideal complement of Close Protection Officers would be 48, while the complement of 30 was the minimum. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of the five Field Service posts (1 Security Training Officer and 4 Close Protection Officers).**

Reclassification

28. As regards the proposed reclassification of the post of Administrative Officer from the P-3 to the P-4 level (A/72/763, paras. 57–58), the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that in accordance with the harmonization of mission support structures, the Chief of Operations and Resources Management would require administrative support at a higher level than what was currently available to the Deputy Director of Mission Support (see also para. 25 (c) above), as the Chief would undertake the management and coordination of three additional sections (human resources, field technology and sectors and regional offices). **The Advisory Committee is not convinced of the justification provided for the proposed upward reclassification of the post of Administrative Officer and therefore recommends against the proposed reclassification of the post from the P-3 to the P-4 level.**

Redeployments and realignments

29. The proposed redeployment of 183 posts and realignment of 208 posts are explained under section I.E of the budget proposal (A/72/763) and the proposed changes in relation to the reorganization of the Mission's support structure are illustrated in a diagram under paragraph 37 of the budget document. The Advisory Committee recalls that UNSOS has undergone a series of reorganizations in recent years: (a) for 2017/18, the Office proposed redeployments and reassignments of a total of 154 posts; and (b) the 2016/17 proposed budget reflected a comprehensive reorganization of the UNSOS organizational structure to align its functions and personnel in compliance with the global field support strategy and to launch the supply chain/service delivery model, with the establishment of 112 new posts and positions approved by the General Assembly (including 99 international staff), following a comprehensive staffing assessment undertaken during 2015/16 (see A/71/836/Add.6, paras. 31–35).

30. Upon enquiry as to the added value of the new mission structure, the Advisory Committee was informed that the adjustment of the mission support structure built on efforts initiated in 2014 to facilitate, among others, the performance of advisory, client-focused and oversight-focused roles of the Director of Mission Support and enhance mandate-enabling support from human resources, budget and finance and information and communications technologies and that it would support effective and efficient delivery of the mandate of UNSOS. **While the Advisory Committee has recognized the challenging environment in which UNSOS operates and the need of the Office to adjust to operational requirements (ibid., para. 35), it is of the view that the Office needs to stabilize and focus on its operations without continuous reorganizations of its structure. The Committee expects that UNSOS will provide information on the results of the reorganizations in the proposed budget for 2019/20.** The Committee's observations and recommendations on mission support structures are contained in its report on crosscutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

31. **Subject to its recommendations in paragraphs 24 and 28 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	Apportioned 2017/18	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Operational costs	350 536 300	326 014 800	(24 521 500)

32. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to $326,014,800, reflecting a decrease of $24,521,500, or 7 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General proposes decreases under most classes of expenditure, including facilities and infrastructure ($9.5 million, or 9.1 per cent) (see paras. 38–41 below), ground transportation ($9 million, or 25.6 per cent), medical ($5.5 million, or 27.3 per cent), information and communications technology ($4.2 million, or 10.6 per cent), air operations ($2.6 million, or 3.3 per cent), consultants and consulting services ($0.7 million, or 33.4 per cent) and official travel ($0.4 million, or 19.1 per cent). The decreased requirements would be offset in part by increases under other supplies, services and equipment ($6.8 million, or 9.8 per cent) (see para. 34 below) and marine operations ($0.5 million, or 1,358.7 per cent) (see para. 17 above).

Redeployment and outsourcing to consultants, individual contractors and commercial contractors

33. The Board of Auditors reports that for the peacekeeping operations for the 2016/17 period, some expenditure classes under the operational costs exhibit clear trends concerning redeployment and that with regard to increases in the resources for consultants, most arose from UNSOS, where $1.2 million was redeployed, similar to the previous year (when $5.4 million was redeployed to hire an additional 55 consultants for 2015/16) (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 69).

34. The proposed resources for consultants and consulting services amount to $1,356,500 for 2018/19, reflecting a decrease of $681,500, or 33.4 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. It is indicated that the reduced requirements are attributable mainly to the UNSOS initiative to outsource most services and the consequent proposal of limited consultancy services for the 2018/19 period (A/72/763, para. 98). The Advisory Committee notes that an increase of $2.7 million, or 39.1 per cent, is proposed for other services under other supplies, services and equipment, which is attributable to the inclusion of outsourced services for transport operation services for drivers, equipment operators and labour, in addition to outsourcing warehousing services in Mogadishu, Mombasa and regional and sector hubs. Upon request, the Committee was provided with an update of the breakdown of outsourced services from the period 2016/17 to the period 2018/19 (see table below; see also A/70/742/Add.14, table 5).

(United States dollars)

	2016/17		*2017/18*		*2018/19*	*Variance*	
Category of outsourcing	*Approved*	*Actual expenditure*	*Approved*	*Estimated expenditure*	*Proposed*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Consultants	2 456 700	3 633 800	2 038 000	1 092 300	1 356 500	(681 500)	(33.44)
Individual contractors	957 000	1 445 016	893 000	893 000	1 164 900	271 900	30.45
Commercial contractors:							
Information and communications technology	4 722 779	3 567 800	3 923 500	2 919 423	3 872 540	(50 960)	(1.30)

Categories of outsourcing	2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	Variance	
	Approved	Actual expenditure	Approved	Estimated expenditure	Proposed	Amount	Percentage
Project management services	2 800 000	2 577 394	500 000	600 000	–	(500 000)	(100.00)
Ground handling and airport services	2 403 360	2 352 500	1 247 100	1 790 250	2 745 900	1 498 800	120.18
Medical personnel for UNSOS level II hospital	2 494 908	2 383 100	2 869 140	1 635 455	943 692	(1 925 448)	(67.11)
Subtotal (commercial contractors)	**12 421 047**	**10 880 794**	**8 539 740**	**6 945 128**	**7 562 132**	**(977 608)**	**(11.45)**
Total outsourced services	**15 834 747**	**15 959 610**	**11 470 740**	**8 930 428**	**10 083 532**	**(1 387 208)**	**(12.09)**

35. Upon request for additional information concerning the use of consultants, individual contractors and commercial contractors (see para. 5 above), the Advisory Committee was informed by the Board of Auditors that on the use of consultants and individual contractors and with reference to administrative instruction ST/AI/2013/4, the Board had observed, inter alia, that: (a) in 22 personal files, there was no evidence of vacancy announcements or application forms; and (b) one retired staff member was re-engaged without clearance from the Office of Human Resources Management as required. Concerning the personnel contracted by third parties, the Board has noted the following issues: (a) while the related purchase orders issued amounted to 15.5 million Kenyan shillings and $399.4 million, the contracts with the third parties amounted to 26 million Kenyan shillings and $415.1 million, respectively; (b) the vendor is entitled to a management fee of 14 per cent of a consultant's monthly salary for transactions with a total amount of $56.7 million (not to exceed) relating to the provision of skilled manpower services in high-risk areas in Somalia; and (c) the procurement transactions with a total cost of $2.55 million in which the vendor provided 55 personnel whereas the contract had a provision for 14 personnel. The Board indicates that these issues concerning the personnel contracted by third parties have not been fully resolved with management and have therefore remained as an open audit observation.

36. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNSOS was in the process of contracting some non-core support activities for warehouse operations in Somalia and, to a minor extent, in Kenya. While those functions were currently performed by a mixed workforce, the intention was to consolidate all of them under a single third-party service provider to allow for the levelling of the available workforce and multitasking of teams, with the anticipation of an improved client service in terms of responsiveness and reliability. The Advisory Committee recalls that it was informed during its consideration of the proposed budget for 2016/17 that UNSOS outsourced costs included consultants, individual contractors and commercial vendors, and that UNSOS had developed a strategy for outsourcing a variety of activities that were considered non-core functions and that the strategy foresaw that these functions were undertaken initially by consultants and would be outsourced to commercial contractors within 18 to 24 months (A/70/742/Add.14, paras. 54–57 and table 5).

37. **The Advisory Committee stresses that the Board of Auditors has made a general recommendation on the need for the administration to implement the tools necessary for a competitive selection process of consultants and individual contractors (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 301. The Committee shares the view of the Board that UNSOS should perform a cost-benefit analysis between the existing capacity of staff and contracting personnel through third parties so as**

to assess the requirements, and provide clear justifications for the process in place for covering the functions contracted through third parties. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly request UNSOS to provide information on its progress on outsourcing services and contract management (see para. 35 above), including the improved effectiveness and efficiencies, in the proposed budget for 2019/20.

Facilities and infrastructure

38. The overall reductions proposed under facilities and infrastructure for 2018/19 reflect decreased requirements for construction and maintenance services, offset in part by increased requirements under: (a) security services ($6.1 million, or 120.5 per cent) owing to an increase in the new contract rates and higher number of armed security guards of 300 for 2018/19, compared with 174 for 2017/18; (b) generators and electrical equipment ($1.1 million) and acquisition of water treatment and fuel distribution equipment ($0.8 million); and (c) petrol, oil and lubricants ($0.8 million) (A/72/763, para. 100). **The Advisory Committee notes the lack of detailed explanation for the proposed increase of $6.1 million for security services, in particular the higher rates of the new security contract. The Committee trusts that information in this regard will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the proposed budget for 2018/19.**

39. With respect to the increases under generators and pumps, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the proposed requirements for 2018/19 included: (a) an additional 10 generators (20 kVA) for the additional boreholes to be drilled in the sectors and the replacement of 20 generators (8 x 750 kVA and 12 x 500 kVA) beyond repair; and (b) planned procurement of 20 pumps to be installed in the new boreholes to be established during 2018/19 and replacement of 40 pumps (UNSOS currently has 60 boreholes). The Committee was also informed that, while the expenditure under generators and electrical equipment amounted to $0.9 million as at 31 January 2018, another purchase order of $1.8 million had been issued in February 2018, bringing the total expenditure under this budget line to $2.7 million, and that the balance of $0.2 million would be spent by the end of the current financial period. **The Advisory Committee notes that the information provided for the requirements for generators and pumps is not clear and consistent. It is of the view that UNSOS should have better explained its requirements, reflecting details on the number of generators and pumps required for the total of existing and new boreholes and its annual replacement plan. The Committee is therefore not convinced of the proposed increases of $1.1 million and $0.8 million relating to generators and pumps, among others, and recommends a 50 per cent reduction to the proposed increases (a reduction of $0.95 million under facilities and infrastructure and related reduction of $0.14 million in freight costs for 2018/19).**

Fuel management

40. The Board of Auditors has observed that UNSOS does not have adequately strengthened controls, nor does it take appropriate and timely disciplinary action regarding non-compliance. The Board has found that: (a) only 72 per cent of fuel consumption reports by contingents were received for 2016/17; (b) the Office did not analyse fuel consumption as required; (c) 464 fuel-consuming equipment items had no functioning odometers and the consumption rate of the equipment was not documented; and (d) in July 2017, a total of 7,218 litres of diesel intended for generator use was stolen from a UNSOS power house (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 362–368).

41. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNSOS had taken a number of remedial actions and applied control mechanisms. The Office had installed

tamper-resistant fuel tanks at 17 locations, and the installation at 7 more locations would be completed by June 2018. UNSOS would also develop two synchronized large power houses at the Mogadishu International Airport, which would provide more efficient power and reduce facilities that needed securing and monitoring by closing many smaller power houses. Another measure was working with AMISOM to implement a mechanism launched in November 2017, to ensure that fuel was not provided on the basis of requests, but on existing equipment composition and historical usage (such as vehicle mileage and actual power production). Furthermore, the deployment of the electronic fuel management system would further improve visibility over fuel consumption across UNSOS. However, the Committee was also informed that progress in the deployment of the electronic fuel management system had been slower than anticipated owing to challenges in adopting the system within the volatile security environment. The system was launched in Mogadishu in December 2017 and has subsequently been implemented in three sector hubs and the Mombasa Logistics Base, while in the remaining two sectors, fuel is monitored through bulk distribution pending the implementation of the system. **The Advisory Committee trusts that UNSOS will finalize the deployment of the electronic fuel management system as soon as possible and implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors expeditiously.**

Marine operations

42. With respect to the proposed increase under marine operations ($0.5 million, or 1,358.7 per cent), it is indicated that the increased requirements are attributable mainly to the planned replacement of five vessels owing to wear and tear (A/72/763, para. 103). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, of the 10 boats for close-to-shore security patrolling, 6 boats were in operation while 4 boats had been identified for write-off. The boats had been procured in May 2015 for an average price of $52,000 per boat and the estimated cost for the five new boats amounted to $98,000 per boat. **The Advisory Committee notes the significant increase in the average cost for one boat planned for 2018/19. The Committee trusts that more information will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the proposed budget for 2018/19.**

Medical

43. The proposed provision of $14.7 million for 2018/19 under medical reflects a reduction of $5.5 million, or 27.3 per cent, attributable mainly to: (a) reduced requirements for drugs and consumables ($2.6 million); (b) lower contract prices ($2 million) for aeromedical evacuation; and (c) no planned acquisition of medical equipment ($0.9 million).

44. The Advisory Committee notes a few issues under medical. First, concerning the procurement of medical equipment and drugs, the Board of Auditors has observed that for 2015/16, UNSOS procured: (a) medical supplies worth $145,411.70 that had not been on the monthly list of items requested by AMISOM; and (b) drugs worth a total value of $460,000 that were not on its list of required drugs, which remained unused and expired in July 2016 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 176). Secondly, on the lower contract prices ($2 million) for aeromedical evacuation, while the Committee questioned the proposed increase of $4.9 million for the aeromedical evacuation contract for 2017/18 (see A/71/836/Add.6, para. 62), it is not clear whether the lower contract prices for 2018/19 have been achieved through renegotiation or a reduced level of services. Furthermore, the incorrect and inconsistent recording of medical services for the three financial periods from 2014/15 to 2016/17 has rendered a proper comparison and analysis difficult at this stage (ibid., para. 61). **The Advisory Committee expects that UNSOS will implement the recommendations of the**

Board of Auditors and strengthen internal control, accountability and management of procurement processes (see also para. 6 above).

45. **Subject to its recommendations contained in paragraphs 24 and 39 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

4. Other matters

Environmental management

46. The Advisory Committee notes that, further to the deficiencies in environmental management previously observed by the Board of Auditors (A/71/836/Add.6, para. 8 (d)), the Board has found that, irrespective of the requirements set out in the Environmental Policy for United Nations Field Missions and the specific environmental policy for UNSOS, UNSOM and support to AMISOM, UNSOS did not establish any procedures for monitoring environmental activities and operations across various units and sections, pillars and stakeholders (such as contingents and UNSOM). Moreover, reports on environmental issues were neither submitted nor requested. The Board also noted that the UNSOS environmental policy was partly outdated and did not define the roles of the Somali National Army and the Assistant Secretary-General (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 436–437). The Board recommends that the Administration ensure that administrative stipulations are adhered to and that this concerns the definition of roles and reporting requirements at UNSOS (ibid., paras. 440–441). UNSOS has accepted the recommendation.

47. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that with regard to roles and reporting requirements for environmental activities, UNSOS had prepared a template for reporting by all sections on activities with significant environmental impact and that the information collected would inform all stakeholders during the quarterly environmental management meetings. In addition, the Office's environmental policy was being updated to accurately reflect the current organizational structure. In terms of the environmental plan, the mission-wide environmental action plan for the 2017/18 period had been completed and submitted to the Department of Field Support in August 2017, covering all five areas of the Department of Field Support environment strategy: energy, water and wastewater, waste, wider impact and the environmental management system. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request UNSOS to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors fully. The Committee reiterates that UNSOS should implement General Assembly resolutions 69/307 and 70/286 to reduce its overall environmental footprint (A/71/836/Add.6, para. 67).**

Mine detection and mine-clearing services

48. It is indicated that UNSOS, through the Mine Action Service, will continue to provide to AMISOM specialized analysis, advice and knowledge, training and mentoring on explosive hazard threat mitigation through technical advisers and technical teams embedded within various AMISOM structures (A/72/763, para. 89). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that UNMAS supported AMISOM by enhancing the capability and competence of the AMISOM troop-contributing countries in countering the improvised explosive device threat and that the number of improvised explosive device incidents reported as targeting AMISOM had gradually increased from 114 incidents in 2015 and 141 incidents in 2016 to 203 incidents in 2017. The Committee was also informed that UNSOS was currently processing claims for the loss of AMISOM equipment due to hostile action valued at $12.8 million.

49. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, that the casualty numbers of the troops had been decreasing. From July 2017 to February 2018, UNMAS had trained 15,203 AMISOM troops, compared with 8,173 troops for 2016/17 and 495 troops for 2015/2016. The Committee was also provided the table below showing the annual budget allocations from 2015/16 to 2017/18 and the proposed allocations for 2018/19. The equipment distributed included metal detectors, magnetometers and accessories and various types of protective equipment.

Description	*2015/16*	*2016/17*	*2017/18*	*2018/19*
Personnel	6 340 698	5 284 773	5 998 434	6 065 713
Travel	602 557	807 011	695 010	695 010
Contracts	27 609 399	25 337 266	21 320 631	26 507 558
Equipment	2 709 801	4 892 122	8 661 627	3 459 728
Operating costs	1 878 589	497 691	679 822	627 515
United Nations Office for Project Services direct support cost (3%)	1 174 231	1 104 566	1 120 666	1 120 666
United Nations Office for Project Services management fee (5%)	2 015 764	1 896 171	1 923 810	1 923 810
Total	**42 331 039**	**39 819 600**	**40 400 000**	**40 400 000**

50. With respect to the status of the transport enabling units and the roles they are expected to play, the Advisory Committee recalls that it was informed that given that the Security Council welcomed the mission enabling units concept for securing the main supply routes, an enlargement in explosive hazard management capability was required (A/70/742/Add.14, para. 63). The Committee was informed that the mission enabling units were mission-configured logistics units, which were commanded and controlled at the AMISOM force headquarters level. The equipment for the units was sourced from available vehicles in the UNSOS inventory, new United Nations acquisitions and 49 pieces of equipment donated by a Member State under a memorandum of understanding. The units were still in the developmental stage and would be fully deployed upon the arrival of additional equipment, including armoured personnel carriers. While the units in sectors 1 and 5 had been partially operational for two years, supporting logistics movements along the main supply routes in the two sectors, once the units became operational in other sectors with the deployment of the additional equipment, UNSOS would be in a better position to determine the full effectiveness of the units based on the security situation.

V. Conclusion

51. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with respect to the financing of UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 are indicated in section V of the performance report (A/72/650). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $4,070,100 for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to $12,488,300 for the period ended 30 June 2017, be credited to Member States.**

52. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly with respect to the financing of UNSOS for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget (A/72/763). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 24, 28 and 39 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by $2,591,700 from $568,744,000 to $566,152,300.**

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $566,152,300 for the maintenance of UNSOS for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/650)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Support Office in Somalia for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/763)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/756)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/770)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 for the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (A/71/836/Add.6)
- General Assembly resolutions 70/285 and 71/311 on the financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)
- Security Council resolutions 1863 (2009) and 2372 (2017)

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Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2016/17	$1,039,573,200
Expenditure for 2016/17	$1,028,134,900
Unencumbered balance for 2016/17	$11,438,300
Appropriation for 2017/18	$910,941,200
Projected expenditure for 2017/18[a]	$907,040,300
Projected underexpenditure for 2017/18	$3,900,900
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2018/19	$782,590,500
Adjustment recommended by the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	($11,233,600)
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2018/19	$771,356,900

[a] Estimates as at 28 February 2018.

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I. Introduction

1. During its consideration of the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 2 May 2018. The documents reviewed and those used for background by the Committee are listed at the end of the present report. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations, including those pertaining to the findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, can be found in its related report (A/72/789). The main observations and recommendations of the Board pertaining specifically to UNAMID are discussed in paragraph 4 below.

II. Budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

2. In its resolution 70/284, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $1,039,573,200 gross ($1,015,090,200 net) for the maintenance of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Expenditures for the period totalled $1,028,134,900 gross ($1,004,208,000 net), reflecting a budget implementation rate of 98.9 per cent. The resulting unencumbered balance of $11,438,300, in gross terms, represents 1.1 per cent of the appropriation, reflecting the combined effect of: (a) lower-than-budgeted expenditures under civilian personnel ($5,120,400, or 2.0 per cent) and operational costs ($8,434,600, or 3.8 per cent); and (b) higher-than-budgeted expenditures under military and police personnel ($2,116,700, or 0.4 per cent). A detailed analysis of variances is provided in section IV of the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/687).

3. The budget performance report indicates that, during the 2016/17 period, a total amount of $2,132,300 was redeployed to group I, military and police personnel, from group III, operational costs (ibid., para. 85). The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report on individual objects of expenditure can be found, where relevant, in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/794) in section IV below.

4. In considering the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNAMID, the Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its report, the Board made observations and recommendations pertaining to the Operation on the following matters: (a) mission structures (ibid., paras. 515–525; see para. 25 below); (b) standard costing of property, plant and equipment (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 20–21; see para. 5 below); (c) underspending of 5 per cent or more between appropriation and expenditure (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, table II.6); (d) aircraft utilization rate (ibid., table II.11); (e) the Regional Procurement Office in Entebbe (ibid., para. 246); (f) temporary duty assignments (ibid., para. 288); (g) travel request compliance (ibid., table II.16); (h) vehicle management (ibid., paras. 347, 349, 351–352 and 356); and (i) energy production and consumption (ibid., paras. 446 and 449; see paras. 35–38 below). **The Committee trusts that the recommendations of the Board of Auditors will be implemented expeditiously.**

Standard costing of property, plant and equipment

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that, following the adoption of the accruals-based International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for the presentation of the financial statements of the Organization (resolution 60/283), data on buildings, infrastructure assets and assets under construction in peacekeeping operations have been collected for the opening balances since the 2013/14 financial period.[1] The Board of Auditors indicates that, while the Organization follows the current depreciated replacement cost methodology for self-constructed assets,[2] the Board has recommended that the Organization work towards recognizing actual costs for self-constructed items, as required by IPSAS (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 17–21). With regard to UNAMID, the Board has observed that inaccurate construction completion rates at two sites of the Operation led to overstated asset book values of $6 million for the 2016/17 financial period, and it was confirmed to the Board that a correcting entry of the same amount had been made during the 2017/18 period. **While the change of methodology recommended by the Board of Auditors under standard costing of property, plant and equipment is a matter cross-cutting in nature for all peacekeeping operations, the Committee expects that the Operation will ensure proper reporting and recording of self-constructed assets in the future.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2296 (2016), a joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID was undertaken from 5 to 17 March 2017 and the recommendations of the strategic review were presented to the Council in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General (S/2017/437) of 18 May 2017, which occurred after the presentation of the initial budget proposal of the Secretary-General for UNAMID for 2017/18 (A/71/775).[3] At that time, the General Assembly did not approve resources for UNAMID for the full period 2017/18 in expectation of the presentation of a revised budget for 2017/18, but decided, in its resolution 71/310, to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Operation in an amount not exceeding $486 million for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2017 (A/72/636, para. 8). Subsequently, the Secretary-General submitted revised estimates for 2017/18 (A/72/563),[4] and the Assembly, in its resolution 72/259, decided to appropriate the amount of $910,941,200 for the period 2017/18, inclusive of the amount of $486 million previously authorized under the terms of its resolution 71/310.

7. With respect to current and projected expenditures for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, the Committee was informed that, as at 28 February 2018, expenditures amounted to $614,760,100. At the end of the current financial period, total expenditures are projected at 907,040,300 against the appropriation of $910,941,200, leaving an underexpenditure of $3,900,900, or 0.4 per cent.

8. The Advisory Committee was provided with information on the incumbency of UNAMID uniformed and civilian personnel as at 28 February 2018, as follows:

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[1] See the report of the Advisory Committee on the seventh progress report on the adoption of IPSAS by the United Nations (A/69/414), para. 6.

[2] The current methodology was derived from costs originally measured at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti with adjustments made at each mission, which, in the view of the Board, can only be an estimate and was found to be prone to error (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 19).

[3] The related report of the Advisory Committee is contained in A/71/836/Add.7.

[4] The related report of the Advisory Committee is contained in A/72/636.

Category of personnel	*Planned*[a]	*Posts encumbered*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military and police personnel			
Military observers	119	101	15.1
Military contingent personnel	10 300	10 421	(1.2)
United Nations police personnel	1 028	1 002	2.5
Formed police unit personnel	1 540	1 559	(1.2)
Civilian personnel			
Posts			
International staff	725	673	7.2
National Professional Officers	176	159	9.7
National General Service staff	1 782	1 724	3.3
General temporary assistance			
International staff	16	16	–
National Professional Officers	1	–	100
National General Service staff	80	78	2.5
United Nations Volunteers			
International	134	117	12.7
National	4	4	–
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–

[a] Represents planned deployment for February 2018 in the approved 2017/18 budget in accordance with the phased downsizing of the Operation's military, police and civilian personnel (see paras. 6 and 11 and footnote 5 of the present report).

9. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 12 March 2018, a total of $15,139,469,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of the Operation since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $14,740,551,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $398,918,000. As at the same date, the cash available to the Operation amounted to $136,845,000, which is insufficient to cover the three-month operating reserve of $147,387,000 (excluding reimbursements to troop- and police-contributing countries). **The Committee recalls that the General Assembly has repeatedly urged all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions (see resolution 70/247).**

10. The Advisory Committee was also informed that all claims for the reimbursement of troop costs had been settled up to 31 October 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $35,465,000 as at 31 December 2017. Contingent-owned equipment had been certified and paid up to 30 September 2017, leaving an outstanding balance of $61,734,000 as at 31 December 2017. With regard to death and disability compensation, as at 28 February 2018, an amount of $7,723,000 had been paid to settle 181 claims since the inception of the Operation; 15 claims were pending. **The Committee notes the high number of outstanding claims and trusts that those claims will be settled expeditiously.**

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

A. Mandate and planning assumptions

11. The mandate of UNAMID was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1769 (2007). The most recent extension of the mandate, until 30 June 2018, was authorized by the Council in its resolution 2363 (2017). In accordance with that resolution, UNAMID has started to downsize its military, police and civilian personnel in two phases during 2017/18, with the first phase concluded on 31 December 2017 and the second phase to conclude on 30 June 2018 (A/72/636, para. 10).

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that another joint African Union-United Nations strategic review of UNAMID would be undertaken (see para. 6 above), with a view to considering a new mission concept with adjusted priorities before the renewal of the Operation's mandate in June 2018. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the joint strategic review team undertook a field visit in April 2018 and would deliver its report by 1 June 2018. The strategic review would evaluate the strategic priorities of the Operation, assess its geographic spread and further consider its future role and that of the United Nations country team with respect to stabilization activities in Darfur. The review would also look at the configuration and changes in the nature of UNAMID operations, including the authorized strength of the military and police components, the size and configuration of the civilian component and the withdrawal of the Operation from sectors or team sites.

13. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed budget for UNAMID for the 2018/19 period captured the Operation's requirements for a full 12-month period (A/72/794) but did not pre-empt any decision that the legislative bodies might take on the outcome of the joint strategic review of the Operation's mandate.

14. The planning assumptions and mission support initiatives of the Operation for the 2018/19 period are summarized in paragraphs 8 to 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for 2018/19 (A/72/794).

B. Resource requirements

15. The proposed budget for UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 amounts to $782,590,500, representing a decrease of $128,350,700, or 14.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. This reflects the combined effect of proposed decreases under military and police personnel ($106,829,100, or 22 per cent) and civilian personnel ($24,901,600, or 10.2 per cent), offset in part by proposed increases under operational costs ($3,380,000, or 1.9 per cent). Detailed information on the financial resources proposed and an analysis of variances are provided in sections II and III of the proposed budget (A/72/794).

1. Military and police personnel

Category	Authorized for 2017/18[a]	Proposed for 2018/19	Variance
Military observers	142	142	–
Military contingent personnel	8 593	8 593	–
United Nations police	960	960	–
Formed police unit personnel	1 540	1 540	–
Total	**11 235**	**11 235**	–

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength for 2017/18 on 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing.

16. The proposed resources for military and police personnel for 2018/19 amount to $379,484,300, reflecting a decrease of $106,829,100, or 22 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The decrease reflects reductions under military contingents ($95.6 million, or 25.5 per cent), United Nations police ($5.1 million, or 10.6 per cent) and formed police units ($6.2 million, or 10.7 per cent), due mainly to the repatriation of military and police personnel, including six infantry units, one medical unit and two formed police units of up to 140 personnel each, during the 2017/18 period, in accordance with the reconfiguration of the Operation[5] (ibid., paras. 101–103).

Refurbishment of warehouses

17. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that an increase of $349,600, or 7.2 per cent, is proposed under rations for formed police units, attributable mainly to provisions for the refurbishment of warehouses, in respect of the planned establishment of a new rations contract during 2018/19. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, in accordance with the terms of the current UNAMID rations contract, upon expiration of the contract on 1 April 2019, the contractor shall transfer to the Operation all facilities, assets and equipment, which can later be transferred to a new contractor. Prior to the transfer to a new contractor, it would be necessary to refurbish, by April 2019, the three warehouses and associated equipment, which would have reached six years of life and been subjected to the extreme climatic conditions of the mission area. It has been observed that the efficiency of some assets directly related to food safety and quality, including cold rooms, compressors and bakery equipment, has noticeably decreased. Furthermore, none of the warehouses are currently equipped with a buffer compartment, which is an important requirement in maintaining the cold chain during loading and offloading.

18. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the proposed budget for 2018/19 contained total estimated requirements of $1.5 million for the refurbishment of the three warehouses and associated equipment (or $500,000 per warehouse), reflected on a prorated basis under the rations line item under the military contingents ($1,275,000) and formed police units ($225,000). **While recognizing the importance of maintaining food safety and quality for military and police personnel, the Committee is not fully convinced with regard to the provision proposed and recommends a 20 per cent reduction to the proposed estimated costs for the**

[5] The maximum authorized strength was reduced from 15,698 personnel to 8,593 personnel for military contingent personnel; from 1,583 officers to 960 officers for United Nations police officers; and from 1,860 personnel to 1,540 personnel for formed police unit personnel, by the end of the 2017/18 period.

refurbishment of the three warehouses and associated equipment (a reduction of $300,000).

19. **Subject to its recommendation in paragraph 18 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for military and police personnel.**

2. Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved for 2017/18*[a]	*Proposed for 2018/19*	*Variance*
Posts			
International staff	713	673	(40)
National staff[b]	1 822	1 588	(234)
General temporary assistance positions	97	97	–
United Nations Volunteers	128	109	(19)
Government-provided personnel	6	6	–
Total	**2 766**	**2 473**	**(293)**

[a] Reflects the approved staffing level as at 30 June 2018 as a result of the phased downsizing.
[b] Includes National Professional Officers and national General Service staff.

20. The proposed resources for civilian personnel for 2018/19 amount to $219,368,400, reflecting a decrease of $24,901,600, or 10.2 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General indicates that the decrease is attributable mainly to reduced requirements due to the proposed abolishment of 293 posts and positions effective 31 December 2018, in addition to the abolishment of a total of 584 posts and positions during the 2017/18 period, in line with the recommendations of the civilian staffing review (ibid., paras. 104–105 and sect. V.B).

21. The Secretary-General states that the civilian staffing review undertaken during the 2017/18 period, to align the staffing levels in accordance with the reconfiguration of the Operation, resulted in the proposed three-phase reduction of posts and positions. The first phase resulted in the abolishment of 426 posts and positions effective 31 December 2017, while the second phase will result in the abolishment of 158 posts and positions on 30 June 2018. In the third phase, 293 posts and positions are proposed for abolishment effective 31 December 2018 (A/72/794, para. 13). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, of the total of 877 posts and positions abolished and proposed for abolishment during the three phases for 2017/18 and 2018/19, 547 were encumbered and 330 were vacant.

Vacancy rates

22. The proposals of the Secretary-General on vacancy rates are set out in section II.D of the budget document (A/72/794). For international staff, a 7 per cent vacancy rate is proposed for the 2018/19 period, compared with 11.5 per cent for 2017/18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the lower vacancy rates projected for the 2018/19 period for some categories of civilian personnel reflect the abolishments occurring during the 2017/18 period and those planned for the 2018/19 period. The Committee notes from the information provided to it that as at 28 February 2018, for the current period, the actual average vacancy rate for mission personnel was 15.3 per cent, and the actual average vacancy rate for international staff was 7.2 per cent. **The Committee therefore recommends that a vacancy rate of 7.2 per cent for international staff be applied to the estimates for 2018/19. Any related operational costs should be adjusted as appropriate.**

Recommendations on posts

23. A total of 2,473 civilian posts are proposed for 2018/19, comprising the following staffing changes: (a) the proposed abolishment of 293 posts and positions (40 international posts, 5 National Professional Officer posts, 229 national General Service posts and 19 United Nations Volunteer positions); and (b) the proposed redeployment of the post of Spokesperson (P-5) from the Communications and Public Information Section to the Office of the Joint Special Representative. It is indicated that the redeployment is proposed to ensure a direct and more efficient communication capacity in the immediate office of the Joint Special Representative in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 2363 (2017). Owing to the complexities associated with the reconfiguration of the Operation under the two-pronged approach, it is paramount that communications about the activities of the Operation and its future be provided in a consistent, accurate and unified manner (ibid., para. 57).

24. **Subject to its observations and recommendations in paragraph 22 above, the Advisory Committee recommends the approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for civilian staff.**

Mission structures and reconfiguration

25. The Board of Auditors analysed the organization of the political and protective pillars of UNAMID (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 515–525).[6] The Board noted that the civilian staffing review recommended, inter alia, (a) merging the current Civil Affairs Section and Community Stabilization Section to capitalize on existing mechanisms for community support projects; and (b) developing a mission plan that is specific enough to enable all sections and units to connect and ensure the complementarity of their concepts and workplans with the new mission concept. The Board is of the opinion that simultaneously downsizing and reconfiguring a mission is a task that requires constant guidance from Headquarters during the entire alignment process. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations reported to the Board that a new organizational structure aligned to the new mission concept had been approved by the General Assembly, together with the budget for 2017/18, in its resolution 72/259 and that the Community Stabilization Section and Civil Affairs Section had been merged into the Governance and Community Stabilization Section. Furthermore, the Department also indicated to the Board that the new mission plan would need to be aligned with the strategic review scheduled for early 2018 (see para. 12 above). **The Advisory Committee concurs with the Board of Auditors that Headquarters should further support UNAMID in realigning its structures in accordance with the adjusted mission concept and mission plan in order to promote coordination and enhance efficiency. The Committee is of the view that such continuous support is essential, taking into account the ongoing strategic review and potential impact on the Operation.**

3. Operational costs

(United States dollars)

	Apportioned 2017/18	*Proposed 2018/19*	*Variance*
Operational costs	180 357 800	183 737 800	3 380 000

[6] As set out in the report of the Board of Auditors, the pillars comprised the following: (a) Civil Affairs Section; (b) Human Rights Section; (c) Political Affairs Section; (d) Communications and Public Information Section; (e) Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Liaison Section; (f) HIV/AIDS Unit; (g) Child Protection Unit; (h) Community Stabilization Section; and (i) Rule of Law Section (see A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 515).

26. The proposed resources for operational costs for 2018/19 amount to $183,737,800, reflecting an increase of $3,380,000, or 1.9 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2017/18. The Secretary-General proposes decreases under all categories of expenditure, except two for which increases are proposed: official travel ($0.2 million) and other supplies, services and equipment ($6.3 million) (see A/72/794, sect. II.A).

Official travel

27. A provision of $3,056,900 is proposed under official travel for 2018/19, representing an increase of $205,200, or 7.2 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18, attributable mainly to increased provisions for travel for the Operation's support functions (ibid., para. 108). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increases are attributable mainly to increased requirements for travel within the mission area in respect of operational matters related to the newly established temporary operating base at Golo and an increase in the contributions towards the travel of expert panels, under cost-sharing arrangements. **Taking into account the closure of 11 team sites/camps during the 2017/18 period and the total of 877 posts and positions abolished and proposed for abolishment during 2017/18 and 2018/19 (see A/72/794, para. 109, and para. 21 above), the Committee recommends that the provision for 2018/19 be maintained at the same level as the resources approved for 2017/18 under official travel (a reduction of $205,200).**

Other supplies, services and equipment

28. The proposed provision of $35,986,100 for 2018/19 represents an increase of $6,279,700, or 21.1 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. It is indicated that the increased requirements are attributable mainly to a provision for a contingent liability, offset in part by lower requirements for other freight and related costs (A/72/794, para. 112). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the provision for a contingent liability should not be included, at this stage, in the proposed budget and that expenditure, if any, could be reflected in the performance report for the period. The Committee trusts that more information on the matter will be provided to the General Assembly.**

Consultants and consulting services

29. The proposed provision of $56,800 for 2018/19 represents a decrease of $176,200, or 75.6 per cent. However, the Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that under individual consultants, the proposal includes an increase of $19,800, or 116.5 per cent, including proposed requirements for (a) monitoring and evaluation of the Operation's refined protection of civilians strategy implementation (one consultant, for $5,000); (b) fundraising activities for the implementation of the United Nations joint rule of law programme (one consultant, for $2,300); and (c) providing HIV/AIDS sensitization training across Darfur (five consultants, for a total of $6,000). **The Committee notes that the Operation has a Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Liaison Section, a HIV/AIDS Unit and a Rule of Law Section (see footnote 6 above). The Committee is of the view that, as mandated activities, these activities should be undertaken by Operation staff and recommends a reduction of $13,300.**

Facilities and infrastructure

30. Under maintenance services, a provision of $2,533,900 is proposed, representing a decrease of $735,900, or 22.5 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. However, the Advisory Committee also notes that for the 2017/18 period, expenditure amounted to ($54,300) as at 28 February 2018, compared

with the approved resources of $3,269,800 for the period. **Noting the expenditure pattern for the current period, the Committee recommends a reduction of $1 million to the proposed provision of $2,533,900 for 2018/19.**

31. Concerning petrol, oil and lubricants, a provision of $33,251,100 is proposed for 2018/19, an increase of $687,700, or 2.1 per cent, owing to the higher projected cost of $0.93 per litre for generator fuel applied in the proposed budget, compared with $0.91 per litre applied for 2017/18. Of the total provision, an amount of $22,509,446 is proposed for generator fuel. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that UNAMID currently operates a total of 1,417 generators. While no generators were replaced during the 2016/17 period, it is planned to replace 30 generators in each of the 2017/18 and 2018/19 periods. The Committee was further informed that, as part of the Operation's strategy to reduce its carbon footprint and minimize its dependency on fossil fuels, UNAMID plans to acquire 15 heavy-duty generators (500 kVA–750 kVA) as replacements for 30 generators that are planned for write-off during the budget period. The acquisition of the heavy-duty generators would contribute to the reduction of fuel consumption by enabling synchronized and automated generator power stations, as synchronized generators shut down in sequence when the power demand decreases. **Taking into account the planned efficiency from generator synchronization, the closure of 11 team sites during 2017/18 and the sources of renewable energy (see paras. 35 and 36 below), the Committee recommends a 10 per cent reduction to the proposed provision of $22,509,446 for generator fuel (a reduction of $2,250,945).**

Ground transportation

32. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that a 5 per cent reduction ($223,979) is made for "off-road adjustment" to the petrol, oil and lubricants cost estimates under ground transportation for 2018/19. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that UNAMID estimates that 5 per cent of its vehicle holdings during the 2018/19 period would be off-road at any given time for a variety of reasons, including for repair and maintenance services, accident damage repair or while awaiting spare parts for the completion of repairs. Those vehicles would not be operational during such time and would not be consuming fuel, oil and lubricants. As such, an adjustment is made to the total estimated cost of fuel, oil and lubricants to reflect the time the vehicles are not operational or off-road. **Noting that a few peacekeeping operations apply off-road adjustments to the petrol, oil and lubricants cost estimates under ground transportation in the preparation of peacekeeping budgets, the Committee expects that information with respect to such adjustments in peacekeeping budgets will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report.**

Air operations

33. A provision of $65,333,600 is proposed for air operations, representing a decrease of $254,600, or 0.4 per cent, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18. With respect to aircraft utilization, the Board of Auditors has observed that the Operation had a utilization rate of 63 per cent for 2016/17 (the ratio of actual hours flown versus flying hours budgeted). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the number of aircraft proposed for the 2018/19 period remains the same as that approved for 2017/18 (4 fixed-wing and 17 rotary-wing) and that the number of flight hours proposed for the 2018/19 period (11,839 flight hours) has been reduced by 1,038 hours compared to the 12,877 flight hours in 2017/18. The Committee was also informed that, given the sizable decrease in flight hours proposed, the modest decrease of $254,600 proposed for the 2018/19 period is attributable mainly to the impact on the air operations line item of the reductions

made by the General Assembly in the final approved budget for the 2017/18 period. The Committee makes further observations and recommendations on air operations in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

34. **Subject to its observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 27 to 31 above, and paragraph 36 below, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for operational costs.**

4. Other matters

Environmental initiatives

35. The Board of Auditors observed that during the period from June 2011 to March 2017, UNAMID installed and maintained 700 photovoltaic panels across the mission's area at a total cost of $279,300. According to the Board, 70 panels were not operational and two photovoltaic systems were not properly maintained. On energy production, UNAMID monitored only one of eight photovoltaic systems, which produced 27.6 per cent of the expected power generation during 2017 based on the estimate by the Board. The Board indicates that photovoltaic systems only fulfil their environmental and economic purpose if they work efficiently and that low power generation does not allow for the recovery of the costs of the investment. The Board recommends that renewable sources of energy be used to achieve the environmental objectives and that an action plan be prepared to install meters in unmetered power generators in a timely manner, and to make operative and regularly monitor the energy production of all photovoltaic systems. UNAMID has confirmed that plans were in place to start regular monitoring and analysis of the energy generated by the photovoltaic systems (A/72/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, paras. 446, 447 and 449).

36. With respect to solar energy, the Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that one solar electric system will be implemented during the 2017/18 period and one during the 2018/19 period and that the actual cost of the system amounted to $281,300 for the 2017/18 period, while the budgeted amount for the system planned for the 2018/19 period is $400,000. Both solar electric systems will be installed at the Operation's headquarters in El Fasher, with a view to installing similar systems in other mission locations in a phased approach. In addition, a total of 10 boreholes are planned to be connected to solar-powered pumps during the 2017/18 period, with an additional 10 boreholes planned for the 2018/19 period. **Noting the lack of justification for the higher amount of $400,000 proposed for one solar electric system for 2018/19, compared with the actual cost of $281,300 for 2017/18, the Committee recommends a reduction of $100,000 for the planned procurement of one solar electric system.**

37. Concerning soil contamination and remedial actions, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that UNAMID has commenced the phased construction of oil containment structures around all generator houses, as well as initiated a soil bioremediation. The construction of oil containment structures is approximately 50 per cent complete in El Fasher and Nyala, while construction in other locations is in the initial stages. In respect of soil bioremediation, UNAMID collects contaminated soil from affected areas and carries out bioremedial measures at a dedicated yard at mission headquarters in El Fasher.

38. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the environmental efforts of UNAMID, in particular with respect to the generation of solar energy, continue to proceed without urgency and remain primarily in their planning stages. The Committee recalls that it has urged the Operation, on a number of occasions, to strengthen its environmental efforts and to pursue the utilization of alternative renewable energy sources in order to minimize the need for fossil-fuel-powered equipment, including generators. In addition, the Committee**

continues to emphasize that efforts aimed at reducing the overall environmental footprint of UNAMID should be strengthened, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 69/307 and 70/286 (see A/72/636, para. 49; and A/71/836/Add.7, para. 64).

Other programmatic activities

39. Information on the other proposed programmatic activities for 2018/19 is provided in paragraphs 98 and 99 of the budget document (A/72/794). The proposed provision of $5,311,000 for 2018/19 represents an increase of $911,000, compared with the approved resources for 2017/18, comprising: (a) community stabilization projects ($4,500,000); (b) peacebuilding activities ($811,000), in accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017); and (c) rule of law activities to support the re-establishment of criminal justice institutions and provide capacity-building, logistical and infrastructure support to key justice and prison institutions in select priority areas in all five Darfur States ($500,000).

40. **The Advisory Committee reiterates the need for comprehensive guidance on: (a) explanations of the types of programmatic activity to be funded by peacekeeping missions; (b) justifications that the activities support the implementation of mandated tasks in each mission; (c) the mission's comparative advantage in the delivery of these activities, as well as those of implementing partners; (d) the contractual arrangements in place with implementing partners; and (e) appropriate oversight, governance and reporting mechanisms (A/71/836, para. 178). While the Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General does not provide comprehensive information relating to scope, criteria, governance and accounting procedures for programmatic activities funded from peacekeeping operations, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/286, it does not object to the proposed resources for other programmatic activities at this stage.** The Committee makes further observations and recommendations on programmatic activities for the 2018/19 period in its report on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping operations (A/72/789).

V. Conclusion

41. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 are indicated in section V of the performance report (A/72/687). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $11,438,300 for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, as well as other income/adjustments amounting to $22,658,500 for the period ended 30 June 2017, be credited to Member States.**

42. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNAMID for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 are indicated in section IV of the proposed budget (A/72/794). **Taking into account its recommendations in paragraphs 18, 22, 27 to 31 and 36 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the proposed resources be reduced by $11,233,600, from $782,590,500 to $771,356,900. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate the amount of $771,356,900 for the maintenance of the Operation for the 12-month period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.**

Documentation

- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/687)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/794)
- Financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/72/5 (Vol. II))
- Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2017 (A/72/756)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: budget performance for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/770)
- Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget performance for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 and on the revised budget from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (A/71/836/Add.7 and A/72/636)
- General Assembly resolutions 70/284, 71/310 and 72/259
- Security Council resolutions 1769 (2007) and 2363 (2017)